



PRESS RELEASE – May 26, 2015

Fire Department: 972-625-3944

Fire Department receives \$24K grant from CoServ Foundation

THE COLONY, Texas — On behalf of the CoServ Charitable Foundation, CoServ Area Manager Craig Chambers today presented The Colony Fire Chief Scott Thompson with a check in the amount of \$24,333 in grant funding for new turn-out gear and high-voltage electrical detectors for The Colony Fire Department.

The funds will go toward 11 new sets of gear and two detectors, Thompson said. The department is in the process of transitioning its gear from tan to black, and these funds will help speed up the process across the department.

“The black actually provides better visibility and other advantages. It’s light absorbent, so it stands out better during dawn and dusk, and in emergency lighting,” Thompson said. “Plus, we’ll be better able to track the wear and tear on the gear now. Tan gear does not discolor when exposed to sunlight and heat, but the black color will.”

Thompson said it was an “interesting” six-month process to determine the color and type of the department’s new gear.



“You’d think, ‘it’s Texas, it’s black and it’s hot,’ but we couldn’t find a single study that said black firefighting gear is any hotter because all firefighting gear is layered with a thermal barrier,” Thompson said. “We called all the manufacturers, and there’s no evidence black gear is any hotter. We fight fires so it’s always hot.”

The electrical detectors, or “hot sticks,” are long devices that provide firefighters advance warning of exposed high voltage from a safe distance. The detectors typically emit an auditory and/or visual warning

of the presence of dangerous voltages without the need to make contact with a given surface that may be carrying current.

Since its creation in 2004, the [CoServ Charitable Foundation](#) has raised \$6.4 million through its Operation Roundup program and other fundraising initiatives – with all funds being given back to the communities they serve via grant applications. Operation Roundup, in which customers opt-in to round up their monthly electric bill, raises about \$65,000 per month, Chambers said. Recent grants awarded to the City of The Colony include \$2,600 to the Public Library for online tutoring programs and \$5,500 to the Police Department for new forensic technology.

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